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The Atlantic outermost regions, the furthest frontiers of Europe?

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Abstract

We set out to examine the importance of the Atlantic outermost in the context of the European Union, focusing on the role it plays as an outermost frontier of the European project, and, even more specifically, the Portuguese Autonomous Regions - the Azores and Madeira.

Keywords: European Union; outermost regions; Atlantic; Azores; Madeira

There are places where we feel the "weight of history" profoundly. One such place is certainly the Atlantic islands. These are like the sacred thresholds of the time when, for a brief moment, we can quite easily be transported to the dimension of a past with a special meaning.

As Pedro Faria e Castro considers "coastal islands have had a special place in the security of continents throughout history, particularly for Europe. Chasle de la Touche said in the 19th century, referring to the relative importance of Belle-Île in the French region of Brittany, that that island was too far from the Brittany coast to help in its